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### First East African breeding record of Grant's Bluebill *Spermophaga poligenys* from the Semliki Forest Reserve, Uganda

During a recent field training and bird inventory programme for foresters and others organized by the Uganda Forest department in the Semliki (= Bwamba) Forest Reserve, observations were made on the nesting of a Grant's Bluebill *Spermophaga poligenys*. This species is an uncommon forest bird restricted to the Ituri and nearby forests in central Africa. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1955) and Brown & Britton (1980) could provide no breeding records but for Zaïre, Chapin (1954), although he never found a nest, mentions adults with enlarged gonads in January, February, May and September and noted young birds most numerous "toward November."

The present observations were made on 10–12 July 1992 during the dry season. On 10 July an incubating female was flushed from the nest and was watched perched nearby for several minutes affording good views. The female was found incubating on the next two days.

The nest was placed in the fork of a pole-sized *Cynometra alexandri* tree about 2 ½ m above the ground. The nest was comparatively large, 25 x 15 cm, and consisted of dried leaves and twigs on the outside with a lining of the grass *Panicum maximum* and blades of *Leptaspis* sp. The nest tree was only 5 m from a regularly used footpath, within a small (some 7 m across) patch of recently burned forest. The three white eggs averaged 18 x 13 mm.

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